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# [Statement before the Mississippi State Bar Convention, Biloxi, Mississippi]

J. Clay Smith Jr.

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STATEMENT OF J. CLAY SMITH, JR.  
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION  
BEFORE THE  
MISSISSIPPI STATE BAR CONVENTION  
BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

JUNE 5, 1981

I regret that a conflicting Federal Bar Association activity involving the Attorney General of the United States precludes my physical presence at this, your State Convention. Leslie Darden has had an outstanding year as your president and I commend him for his significant contribution to the legal profession.

The Federal Bar Association was founded in 1920. Since that time, it has served the interests of the lawyers in the Federal and private sectors by providing continuing legal education programs at moderate costs, encouraging the younger lawyer and young people to aspire in and to the legal profession, supporting the Federal judiciary in its quest for pay equity, and enhancing the science of jurisprudence by the publication of scholarly journals and other periodicals.

I have asked Thomas G. Lilly to read this statement, and for good cause. The State of Mississippi and its lawyers can be proud of Tom Lilly, who from 1979-1980 was president of the Federal Bar Association. To my knowledge, Tom is the first president from the State of Mississippi in the 60 year history of the FBA. In addition, many members of the Mississippi State Bar Association, such as H.M. Ray, the

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U.S. Attorney (Oxford, Mississippi), have long been supporters of the FBA, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the lawyers of Mississippi for their sustained support.

In closing, I would like you to focus your attention on the next century. As lawyers, we must be in the process of planning for the new century. Each of you has an opportunity to design the legal system to assure that it is capable of providing the citizens of America with what it deserves: leadership, honesty, service, equality for all and efficiency. We cannot fail in this objective for, if we do we will defer the American Dream to the new century.

Again, thank you for inviting me to participate in your program.

J. Clay Smith, Jr.